

Hamilton Field,  
Base Exterior Lighting Type A  
East of Nave Drive  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-DB

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IDB-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

## HAMILTON FIELD Base Exterior Lighting Type A

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IDB-

HABS No. CA-2398-DB

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Base Exterior Lighting Type A

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)  
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)  
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;  
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

### Significance:

The exterior lighting fixtures installed at Hamilton between 1931 and 1935 are important features of the historic landscaping as well as contributing structures to the historic district. They reflect the attention to detail Nurse and his staff excelled in, and fit the overall Spanish architectural theme found throughout the base.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

### Description:

The 1930s street lights and other exterior lighting fixtures on the base are located primarily along the streets in the permanent housing sections, along the main entrance drive and on the two bridges, and flanking the entries to the four permanent barracks buildings. The electric lights are contained in octagonal glass lanterns with ornamental cast metal casings topped with sharp-pointed finials. Each cast metal casing has a circular collar with four set screws for attachment to the standards. A photoelectric sensor has been added to each lamp through a hole drilled in the casing. A prismatic glass diffuses the light. Lights on the four barracks are six-sided.

The lanterns are supported by tapered six-sided cast concrete standards that are either full length for curbside lights or half-length posts when mounted on the railings of the two entrance bridges. The standards are cast of an exposed aggregate and red concrete. A metal access plate is inset near the base of a few and is marked "CENTRECON/VES 3.7/9.14.89/9906." This replacement pole is identical to the original poles. An original standard has an attached metal tag marked "Light Post Hollowspun Granite Standard/Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co./Southbend Works/SB Indiana/7-24-28/#97-40." This plate is below the ground surface, where the pole is set into the ground. The exterior lights on the permanent barracks are attached to either side of the entries with ornamental cast metal brackets.

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**Historical Context:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-239B) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-239B-F.

Installed during initial base construction, the ornamental street lamps are closely associated with the overall base landscaping, particularly the permanent housing area. Replacement poles are identical to the originals.

**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-239B) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-239B-F.

See also CA-239B-27, CA-2398-29, CA-239B-33, CA-239B-34, CA-2398-BI-2, and the project Field Record, roll 62, exposures 3-4.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

**Project Information:**

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties et the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part B00, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Date prepared: July 1995

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Date: November 1994

CA-2398-DB-1 Red granite street lamp at 231 Crescent Drive.